Epiphyas postvittana (Walker) (Lep.: Tortricidae) new to Ireland

A male Tortrix moth, superficially resembling a form of *Clepsis spectrana* (Treitschke), was found on the evening of 8.ix.1997, apparently attracted to light, at Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford (Irish grid. ref. T125121). In order to establish the identity of the specimen, a genitalia preparation was made, but reference to Pierce & Metcalfe (1922. *The genitalia of the group Tortricidae of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles*) suggested that it was a species not represented in that work. The genitalia slide was therefore sent to the Natural History Museum, London, where Kevin Tuck kindly confirmed my suspicion that the specimen was *Epiphyas postvittana,* a species not previously recorded from Ireland.

This moth, a native of Australia, where it is a pest of apple orchards, has been spreading northwards from Cornwall, where it was first detected in 1936 (Bradley *et al.* 1973. *British Tortricoid Moths* **1**), and it seems appropriate that it should be first detected in Ireland just 500 metres from the Ferryport linking Ireland with south Wales.– K.G.M. Bond, Dept. of Zoology & Animal Ecology, University College, Cork, Eire.

Aglais urticae L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in January

At 2.30pm on the warm afternoon of 10 January 1998 my wife and I were surprised to see a specimen of this butterfly flying in Selborne churchyard, visiting various floral tributes – some of which were of plastic – and attempting to extract nectar. That behaviour would seem to support Maitland Emmet's opinion that "prompt sustenance is necessary once diapause is broken" (*Ent. Rec.* **110**: 22). In 1997-1998, the winter fast may have lasted for as little as 59 days, since I had seen a specimen of *urticae* flying up the village street on 12 November.– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, 1 The Street, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

Is *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* (Zeller) (Lep.: Gracillaridae) increasing its range?

For several years now I have been monitoring an isolated group of grey alders *Alnus incana* growing near a footpath in Medmenham, Buckinghamshire for the presence of *Phyllonorycter strigulatella.* To my knowledge there are no other trees of this species within many miles of this site. Several of the other alder-feeding species of this genus have been reared from these trees, but no *strigulatella* until now.

Last Autumn I noticed leaf mines of a type I had not seen before. These were "underside" mines positioned between pairs of veins. The mines were narrow and highly contorted, such that the upper surface took the form of a tube and their underside edges almost touched centrally. They were small, averaging around 13mm in length, and most were positioned near the edges of the leaves but not reaching the margin. Their uppersides were distinctly reddish with a green area of uneaten parenchyma offset towards one end of the mine. Their undersides had numerous minute creases and were also reddish-orange in colour. The distinctive colour of these mines meant that they were very noticeable, whether in fallen leaves or those still on the trees.